

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman

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*Published by the Commission on Public Relations*

*of the National Christian Council of Japan*

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CABLE CODE: JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS: CHRISTIAN CENTER, 24-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates: Japan ¥700; Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 176

November 15, 1960

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## LUTHERAN CHURCH HOLDS CONSULTATION IN KARUIZAWA October 31 - November 4

The consultation was held by the members of the board of the United Lutheran Church in the United States with pastors and laymen of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. Fifteen missionaries also attended and other Lutheran churches, contemplating merger, were also invited to send delegates as observers. Those representing the Mission Board in United States were: Dr. Ralph W. Loew, President of the Board, Rev. Earl S. Erb, Executive Secretary, Miss Josephine Darmstetter, Executive Secretary of the United Lutheran Church Women, Rev. David Vickner, Secretary for Japan and Rev. Samuel Kidd and Dr. Carl V. Tambert members of the Board.

The conference was held to take a fresh look at the church here and study every aspect of its life and work. Sessions were held on Evangelism, past, present and future expectation; Stewardship, and Self-Support. Other sessions were also held on specialized aspects such as student work, rural evangelism and literature. Papers were presented by those attending in their own language and simultaneous translations were made to facilitate exchange of communication.





The general conclusions resulting from the conference were: 1) There is an undergirding need for stewardship in the life of the church (not merely for finances to support the pastor). 2) There is a need to work out a strategy of evangelism, which has not been adequately considered up to the present time. 3) There is a need to rethink the structure of the relationship of the church to the institutions. 4) There was consideration of the idea to combine churches to make the churches self-supporting.

It was decided further that any suggestions that grew out of the conference should be written by each individual who attended. These will then be gathered and screened by a committee and sent to the persons responsible for that particular area.

Undoubtedly, future action of the Church here and the Mission Board in America will be governed by what took place at the conference.

#### COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM RESULT OF PASTOR'S CONCERN

The Tomisato Rural Center in Chiba-ken has held physical examinations for the rural people of the Tomisato Mura area over the past several years. It was a struggling proposition met with much criticism in the early years of this service, but the pastor, Rev. Ichiro Aito, was determined and dedicated to this service of love to the community. Another year of examinations has just been completed in which the local government cooperated 100% and even underwrote much of the expense. The doctors of the Christian Medical Association donated time and effort to this pioneering project.

Of the total population of 4,700 in the rural area, 85% came to the clinic for examination during the week of special service. This does not include children. Thirty cases of tuberculosis in various stages were discovered. Of the various communities in the area, one turned out 100%. Miniature X-rays were taken of each person, and suspicious pictures numbered 182. Large X-rays were then taken of these 82 persons. Of the 182 there are now 20 under observation, 18 are under treatment begun before, and there are 30 new cases of TB that were unknown before.

There are many reasons for the success of the Tomisato Church and Rural Center in this pioneer work. The large participation in the program was partly due to adequate preparations. Movies showing health hints and disease prevention were shown throughout the area. Tuberculin skin tests were taken first, then the small X-rays followed by larger X-rays. Following this there were careful conversations with the patients and their relatives concerning future steps to be taken. The service of love by the church there is a living witness to the concern which Christ has for his children everywhere.

#### WAR CAMP INTERPRETER INVITED TO LONDON BY FORMER PRISONERS

Rev. Kiyoshi Watanabe, 70 years old, will leave for London and continue a three month trip around the world through the invitation of former war prisoners whom he helped in Hongkong. The invitation was received through the British Embassy a short time ago and he will leave here November 28th.





During the war, he worked as an interpreter at a prisoner of war camp in Hongkong. Diphtheria broke out among the prisoners and Mr. Watanabe was very anxious to help them, but there was no Japanese medicine available. He realized that if he could get medicine they would recover. He finally managed to obtain some through a British citizen in Hongkong, smuggled it back into the camp and gave it to the British Army doctor. The men regained their health and now in appreciation for saving their lives, they are inviting him to London where they plan to hold a meeting expressing their gratitude to him. He is a pastor of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church.

#### COLLECTION OF FUNDS FOR BUILDING FOR DR. SCHWEITZER EXTENDED

The Christian Education Week sponsored project "Let's Send Medicine to Dr. Schweitzer" has been extended to Christmas in an effort to collect 2,000,000 yen for a building for the hospital instead of sending the medicine. At present 1,920,000 yen (about \$3,500) has been collected. Funds are being solicited at Christian schools and kindergardens. The committee is consulting with Dr. Isao Takahashi, who is at present working with Dr. Schweitzer, on the type of building and details for construction.

#### KYODAN DELEGATES APPOINTED FOR THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF WORLD COUNCIL

Rev. Keikichi Shirai, Moderator of the United Church, Rev. Iwao Niwa, Head of the General Affairs, Rev. Gosaku Okada of the Denen ~~Waka~~ Church and Mr. Shiro Abe representing social work and youth have been to attend the meeting to be held in New Dehli December 1961.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED CHURCH (Continued from the November 1 issue)

This year one of the major bills up for discussion was the revision of the constitution. The part granting full voting membership to every ordained pastor in the kyoku (district) was passed but the more complicated revision to modify the nature and function of the Kyoku was returned to the committee for two more years of further study. Primarily the problem is to satisfactorily arrive at an agreement as to the nature of the kyoku and the church structure. Some feel "churchness" can be located in the kyoku and others tend to feel that churchness exists in the Kyodan itself in relation to the individual churches. In this sense the kyoku has an administrative function. The new revision states that the kyoku is not to be merely administrative, although it is essentially necessary, the essence of the church is not to be found in the kyoku.

Some of the other decisions:

- \* The General Evangelism Committee was abolished. The Evangelism Committee, composed of the former committees which made up the GEC, will be under the General Secretary of Evangelism. The secretary has not yet been appointed.
- \* The Overseas Evangelism Committees was raised to the status of a regular standing committee of the church.
- \* The General Assembly voted authorization for a special fund raising drive for 100 million yen for evangelism.
- \* A committee was authorized to explore the possibilities of establishing a building for the church headquarters.





- \* The General Assembly also authorized study on the role and status of women who dedicate themselves to full time church work.
- \* It was also decided to have a second conference on the "Fundamental Policy of Mission of the Church" in 1961.

In response to the overture by the Church of Union in Germany to establish relationships with the Kyodan, it was voted to send a letter of friendship to the Church of Union and to recognize Dr. Alfred Schmidt of Germany, now working in Omori representing the Evangelical Academy, as their representative. A smaller group under the church executive will continue to work through him exploring plans for more concrete ways of developing the relationship. At present plans are to exchange materials, provide student scholarships and to inform and assist visitors when in each other's country.

At this General Assembly, for the first time since the founding of the United Church, reports were made by representatives of the United Church related social work and educational institutions.

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#### COMPARATIVE GROWTH OF THE KYODAN AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (1948-58)

		Kyodan	Roman Catholic
Members	1948	133,000	111,000
	1958	180,000	266,000
Churches	1948	1,325	345
	1958	1,551	870
Ministers	1948	2,075	2,396
	1958	2,600	6,202

(source: Rev. Shirai's Feb.22 speech)

#### 1959 KYODAN STATISTICS

Category	1954	1959	Difference	Aver. per Ch.
Total believers	156,076	180,855	24,809	115
Active "	88,130	101,884	13,754	65
Sun. Morning	46,756	51,235	4,479	33
Sun. Evening	13,864	11,642	2,222	7
Prayer Meeting	12,288	11,297	991	7
S.S. Attendance	111,207	82,885	28,322	53
*Running Expenses (Income)	222,887	396,903	174,016	253,000
*Monthly Pledges	106,200	204,404	98,204	130,000
*Sun. Offerings	42,366	73,893	31,527	47,000

\* The first three columns of figures are represented in thousands of yen. The last column showing averages per church are actual.  
(source: General Evangelism Committee)

#### AVACO MAKES CHRISTMAS PLANS

Christmas day at AVACO each is a flurry of activity from morning to evening, as AVACO technicians ferry Christmas films and projectors from church to orphanage to prison to church, and an unending stream of people file through the building carrying away filmstrips





with dramatized tape narration, kamishibai, tapes of Christmas music and other AV aids. Behind the events around Christmas, however, lie three months of careful preparation.

This year preparations for Christmas at AVACO include programs for radio and TV, production of a film, a filmstrip, a number of non-projected aids, and co-sponsorship of a benefit Christmas musical program, the proceeds of which go to orphans.

Besides the usual Christmas emphasis through stories, biographies and music on AVACO's regular radio programs, a Christmas Eve candle-light service will be broadcast on a nation-wide TV network, sponsored by two businessmen. AVACO's new color puppet film, The Other Wise Man, and the Bible Society's Nativity will be telecast in various parts of Japan. As usual, time made available on the nationwide government radio network also will be used, through presentation of Christian music and leading Protestant preachers.

This week a new color thirty-five mm. filmstrip, Our Family's Christmas, will go on sale and be placed in the AVACO library for rental use. Also available early in December will be a dramatic taped narration for this filmstrip with musical background prepared by the AVACO Drama Group. The filmstrip concerns the controversy in a family as to how to use funds saved by all for the family's Christmas and the crisis precipitated by the youngest child's insistence that they be given to the next door neighbors who have lost their home by fire. This filmstrip is designed for use by the whole congregation of the church and should be especially useful in interpreting the inner meaning of Christmas to non-Christians.

Also for use in Christmas evangelism or family church programs is a Christmas play by Mr. Saito of the AVACO Production Department. The play, which can be performed in the chancel, entitled The Gift of That Night, centers around a traditional Japanese theme, the antagonism of a mother toward her son's wife.

In addition, this year AVACO is adding a number of sets of Christmas flannelgraph to the non-projected aids produced in previous years.

All of these aids and programs are being introduced in the November issue of AVACO's magazine distributed early this month to fifteen hundred individuals and churches.

On December 1st, the AVACO Broadcasting Chorus will appear with two other choirs, on a benefit concert, "An Evening of Christmas Music", sponsored by the Asahi Hall in Tokyo. Famous Christmas carols will follow the order of the events of the Nativity as narrated by Mr. Toru Ohira, nationally famous radio narrator, and a brief message on the meaning of Christmas will be presented by Mr. Shinjiro Noro, newspaper critic and Christian layman. Script is by AVACO's production department chief, Magumi Hara.

#### AMERICANS HONORED BY JAPAN-U.S. AMITY AND TRADE ASSOCIATION

In recognition of their contributions to the development of Japan in the last 100 years, 298 Americans, about 100 of whom were







